



Contact: Jessica Zopf
515-868-1352
jessica.zopf@dnr.iowa.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Energy Independence Releases 2008 Plan for Energy Independence

Plan includes key recommendations for growing Iowa's energy economy and strengthening Iowa's role as national leader

(DES MOINES) – Today, the Office of Energy Independence released the “2008 Plan for Energy Independence,” with recommendations for best practices related to efficiency and energy production statewide.

The Office of Energy Independence, (OEI) issued its first annual energy plan in fall of 2007; since then, the OEI has received more than 160 pre-applications, proposing nearly \$1 billion in private-sector investment in renewable energy and job creation. This year's plan is available on the Office of Energy Independence's website, at <http://www.energy.iowa.gov>.

“Iowa's natural resources, innovation, and work ethic provide a solid foundation for us to lead in this new energy economy,” said Governor Chet Culver. “Most important, research and development into energy efficiency, renewable energy, and next-generation biofuels is leading to job growth in every corner of Iowa.”

“The recommendations in the 2008 Plan for Energy Independence will help Iowa stay a national leader in renewable energy,” said Roya Stanley, director of the Office of Energy Independence. “Investing in the renewable energy economy will help us weather the economic challenges, and prepare us for a brighter, stronger future.”

Plan Highlights

Energy Efficiency Recommendations

- Enact an energy efficiency portfolio standard and expand energy education
- Promote smart growth and support workforce development in energy
- Develop coordinated and more uniform core utility energy efficiency programs
- Make energy efficiency the highest priority in utilities' planning processes

Renewable Energy Recommendations

- Promote and ensure long-term growth of large utility-scale wind
- Promote small-scale distributed generation
- Promote the development of an environmentally sound biomass industry in Iowa

Biofuels Recommendations

- Enhance the economic and environmental viability of the biofuels industry
- Develop a biomass feedstock supply infrastructure for second generation biofuels
- Support development and deployment of integrated biorefineries
- Improve the analysis used to develop greenhouse gas performance measures

*The **Office of Energy Independence** (OEI) sets the strategic direction for Iowa's clean energy future by identifying goals to achieve desired results. The office will align state government efforts for achieving energy independence through partnerships with business and industry, community leaders, government and public agencies, and other stakeholders.*

###